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LETTER DATED 24 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present the attached letter dated 21 May 1993 from my Foreign Minister to Your Excellency.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 21 May 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have appealed to the international community for comprehensive measures to bring to an end the agony of the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Recalling the letter of 14 May 1993 from President Alija Izetbegovic to the Security Council (S/25791, annex), preceded by my statement of 9 May 1993 (S/25755, annex), we clearly conveyed our request for more resolute steps (including suspension of the arms embargo against the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina) to confront the ongoing Serbian aggression and challenge the occupation, even if the current mandate of United Nations peace-keeping and humanitarian personnel may have to be modified or withdrawn. Also recalling the letter of 18 May 1993 from Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey to the Security Council (S/25791, annex), we conveyed our position that we can no longer accept new steps and new United Nations-mandated personnel if, in fact, they only address the symptoms and do not focus on resolving the causes. It seems that certain Member States and international organs have not heeded our request. Apparently, new steps are now being contemplated that may only marginally address the symptoms and effectively institutionalize the status quo and consolidate the fruits of aggression.

We must now re-emphasize that we are not only a "party to the conflict", but most relevantly a sovereign State Member of the United Nations. We demand that any current or future measures and mandates within the borders of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina be reviewed by, and gain the specific approval of, our Government. In this context, we will not accept any new measures, mandates and/or personnel without our educated review and approval. In addition, we reserve the right to reject the presence of currently deployed United Nations-related personnel until their existing mandate, and actual implementation of such mandate, is reviewed and approved by us.

These are necessary steps, as it seems that we may become the objects of indifferent and indefinite paternalism for the sake of facilitating face-saving measures for those who fail to meet their legal obligation: the obligation to confront those who arrogantly reject peace or to at least allow the victims of genocide the unhindered opportunity of self-defence.

We will, of course, with tremendous gratitude and appreciation continue to welcome humanitarian assistance from, and the presence of, all of those who help our people without conditions unduly compromising our sovereignty and right of self-defence and without the self-serving objective of substituting temporary relief for real solutions.

(Signed) Haris SILAJDZIC
Minister for Foreign Affairs